Using evidence from the Land Matrix and other data repositories to investigate impacts of large-scale land investments on common-pool resources

Markus Giger, Kerstin Nolte, Ward Anseeuw, Peter Messerli

IASC Regional European Meeting, Bern, Switzerland, 10-13 May 2016

Session A07 - Land grabbing - a phenomenon in Europe?
Structure of presentation

What is the Land Matrix?
Overview of data available globally and for Eastern Europe
Relevance of the Land Matrix for the study of the commons
How to get involved
The Land Matrix Initiative (LMI) is a global and independent initiative that monitors competition over land use in the Global South

Objectives:

• to improve transparency and accountability regarding Land Acquisitions
• to provide data for research, policy-making and advocacy
• to contribute towards more equitable decision-making
Partners and Donors
What is covered by the Land Matrix?

Large Scale Land acquisitions (LSLA):
Concessions, leases, sales of land

Criteria:
Investment size > 200ha
Recent transaction (2000-...)
Involvement of foreign investors
Conversion of land owned by communities or small scale farmers or pastoralists
Deals that target low- and middle-income countries
The Online Public Database on Land Deals

The Land Matrix is a global and independent land monitoring initiative that promotes transparency and accountability in decisions over land and investment.

This website is our Global Observatory - an open tool for collecting and visualising information about large-scale land acquisitions.

The data represented here is constantly evolving; to make this resource more accurate and comprehensive, we encourage your participation.

Read more

Data is at the core of our project, but numbers alone can't tell a good story. These interactive visualizations are here to help you grasp the phenomenon of large-scale land acquisitions. Through them, we try to provide answers to questions such as how much land we're talking about, who's buying where, how much of the land is used for growing food, etc.


We currently have information about:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Number of deals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40,843,431 ha</td>
<td>1,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,460,357 ha</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,800,171 ha</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Concluded: 60% 80%
- Failed: 30% 14%
- Intended: 10% 6%
Enter a location to set the center of a circle that displays an area equal to the size of the intended, concluded or failed land acquisitions (41,124,529 ha).

Bern, Switzerland

Area equal to the size of the intended, concluded or failed land acquisitions (41,124,529 ha)

Concluded deals

Intended deals

Failed deals

Transnational deals

Domestic deals

Exclude media reports
Global map of investments

www.landmatrix.org, accessed 3.11.2015
### Top 10 Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Investor countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA*</td>
<td>7,909,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK*</td>
<td>5,974,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>5,483,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>5,188,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>4,560,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>3,758,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>3,181,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>3,173,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab Emirates*</td>
<td>2,900,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea*</td>
<td>2,492,667</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Top 10 Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Papua New*</td>
<td>3,804,453 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Fed*</td>
<td>3,353,512 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>3,235,335 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC*</td>
<td>3,155,318 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>2,727,935 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>2,691,453 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>2,435,671 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>2,390,207 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>2,148,000 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>1,375,001 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Food crops beat agro-fuels
Land Matrix Data for Eastern Europe

Total concluded deals: 96
Area size concluded: 5'106'618 ha
Area under production: 2’047’659 ha (40%, as opposed to 19% globally)
Number of failed deals: 2 (11’000 ha ( <0.5% opposed to 10% globally)

Countries included, according area: UKR (61 %), RUS (30%), ROU (8%), BGR (1%), LIT (0.2 %)
Top 14 investor countries in Europe (ha concluded deals)

Status 25.4.2016
Intention of LSLA in Eastern Europe

For wood and fibre: 17%
Forage: 11%
Livestock: 7%
Non-food agricultural commodities: 0%
Forestry (unspecified): 0%
Other intention: 1%
Agrofuels: 2%

Food crops: 62%

Status 25.4.2016
How do LSLA impact common property resources?
What can we learn from the Land Matrix?
Former Ownership reported in Land Matrix

N = 466 agricultural deals

Source: Land Matrix 25.4.2016
Land cover analysis of the context of 139 locally geo-referenced deals

Negotiation Status
- Contract signed (115)
- Oral Agreement (6)
- Under negotiation (9)
- No information (9)

Map scale: approx. 1:200,000,000
Map projection: Mollweide

Source: Messerli, Giger, Dwyer, Eckert, 2014
Land cover analysis of the context of 139 locally geo-referenced deals

- Investor compete with farming communities
- 79% of deals in Africa are within a daytrip from nearest city (accessibility < 6h);
- 52% of all deals globally target areas with population densities > 25 persons/km²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Share of deals</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cropland mosaics</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest land</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrub- and grassland</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginal and other land</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Messerli et al. 2014
Three distinct patterns emerge from the analysis:

- densely populated and easily accessible croplands
- remote forestlands with lower population
- moderately populated and moderately accessible shrub- or grasslands

In each of these patterns common property resources exist, with distinct characteristics. Common property resources are not easily mapped, are frequently overlooked and clearly underreported in the existing databases.

Source: Messerli et al. 2014
In future, Land Matrix will co-operate with landmark projekt (http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/), an interactive global platform to provide maps and other critical information on lands that are collectively held and used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
Link to Open Land Contracts

An online repository of
Open Land Contracts

Search for Contracts
Search

9 Countries
View All Countries

Contract Documents From

Contract Documents Related To
33 Resources
View all resources

This site provides access to contracts and documents related to Open Land Contracts. These documents cover various aspects of agricultural land agreements and are intended to promote transparency and accountability. The site serves as a resource for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders interested in land rights and land-based investments. The documents are provided in a searchable format, allowing users to find relevant information quickly. Users should consult the source of the contracts to ensure the accuracy and legality of the information provided on this site.
THIS SUB-LEASE is made on the 5th day of March 2011, between Socfin Agricultural Company (S.L.) (herein referred to as the "Assignor") and The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Co-operatives (herein referred to as the "Assignee"), the parties hereto being desirous of entering into a sub-lease agreement, whereby the Assignee will have the right to use a portion of the land described below, under the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

The Assignor hereby grants to the Assignee the right to use the land described below, subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

The Assignee hereby agrees to use the land described below for the purpose of agriculture, and to comply with all regulations and by-laws of the Authority.

The terms and conditions of this sub-lease are as follows:

1. The Assignee shall pay to the Assignor a sum of [Amount] per annum as rent, payable in [Currency] on [Date].

2. The Assignee shall maintain the land in good condition and shall not engage in any activity that may be harmful to the environment.

3. The Assignee shall not sublease the land without the written consent of the Assignor.

4. The Assignee shall indemnify the Assignor against any loss or damage sustained by the Assignor as a result of the Assignee's default.

5. The Assignee shall comply with all laws and regulations relating to the use of the land.

The Assignee shall have the right to use the land described below for the purpose of agriculture, subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

The Assignee hereby agrees to use the land described below for the purpose of agriculture, and to comply with all regulations and by-laws of the Authority.

The terms and conditions of this sub-lease are as follows:

1. The Assignee shall pay to the Assignor a sum of [Amount] per annum as rent, payable in [Currency] on [Date].

2. The Assignee shall maintain the land in good condition and shall not engage in any activity that may be harmful to the environment.

3. The Assignee shall not sublease the land without the written consent of the Assignor.

4. The Assignee shall indemnify the Assignor against any loss or damage sustained by the Assignor as a result of the Assignee's default.

5. The Assignee shall comply with all laws and regulations relating to the use of the land.

This sub-lease shall be for a term of [Number] years, commencing on [Date], and shall be renewable upon mutual agreement of the parties.

In witness whereof, the Assignor and the Assignee have executed this sub-lease in duplicate, each party retaining a copy.

[Signatures]

Assignor: Socfin Agricultural Company (S.L.)

Assignee: The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Co-operatives

Date: 5th day of March 2011

[Address]

[Signatures]

Assignor: Socfin Agricultural Company (S.L.)

Assignee: The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Co-operatives

Date: 5th day of March 2011

[Address]
What can we learn from the Land Matrix?

- Land Matrix collects information about former land use and former land owners – albeit with large data gaps and not explicitly about the commons
- Spatial information contained in the Land Matrix can be exploited
- Land Matrix can be a tool for researchers to identify secondary information about LSLA
- Land Matrix could help to identify cases for further detailed investigation (adding in-depth research on individual cases based on purposeful selection of case study)

- Land Matrix can help to spread scientific findings beyond research audience
Thank you!

And we hope we can upload your research results on the Land Matrix platform soon!

Report land deals
Website: www.landmatrix.org
Twitter: @Land_Matrix
FB: Land Matrix

Pilot App on Android Play Store!